

COUNTRY USSR

DATE: 25X1A

INFO. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT

1. Military Use of Binyam Airfield
2. Binyam Airfield

DIST. 3 September 1947

PAGES

SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN

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CONFIDENTIAL

This document is hereby regarded to be CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.
Review Date: 2008

1. In December 1946, approximately 8,000 German PWs were still detained at Camp O/289/0 in Orsk. Most of them were airborne and SS personnel. In September 1946, a Lieutenant Weber was asked by the Russians if he would train Russian soldiers as parachute jumpers. Weber, with four other PWs from airborne units, accepted and subsequently trained Russians at the Binyam airfield near the camp. Although Weber was promised early release in recognition of his services, [REDACTED] that he is still detained. (Orsk - 51°15'N, 53°35'E)

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2. [REDACTED] released from Camp CSA 69/03 south of Perm in late December 1946, report that at that time the camp held 18,000 German PW prisoners. In November 1946, the PWs were invited to join the Soviet Army on a voluntary basis, with the promise of new clothes and normal military rations. It was also announced that volunteers would be used only to train Russian soldiers and that they would be released after six months' service.

Approximately 3,000 of the PWs responded to the appeal, were given new uniforms, and were shipped south by truck and rail, under guard. One section went to Sukhum and the other to Poti, both Black Sea ports. Both towns, where the PWs lived variously in tents and barracks, contained large stocks of equipment, especially automatic pistols and rocket launchers. All soldiers were trained in the use of a light machine gun.

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3. [REDACTED] claim that in early December 1946 "it became generally known" that the troops would be used against Turkey in the event of trouble in that area, and the PWs apparently anticipated the excellent chances for desertion this would provide. In mid-December, the Germans were subjected to another examination and the 300 pronounced unfit were returned to the camp at Perm.

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Comment: Although there have been other accounts of Russian attempts to recruit German PWs for the Soviet Army or as instructors, this is the first one received by the originating office which reports such a generous response and the first involving the two Black Sea ports.

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NO CHANGE in Class. CLASSIFICATION

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